

Reagan meets Arab delegation

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan on Friday told an Arab League delegation that the United States strongly supported a negotiated settlement to the Iran-Iraq war, the White House said. The delegation, led by North Yemen Foreign Minister Karim Iryani, is consulting members of the United Nations Security Council after an Arab League meeting in Tunis last month that called for an end to the more than six-year-old conflict. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Reagan reaffirmed the strong U.S. commitment to a prompt negotiated settlement of the war. "He also stressed the U.S. commitment to the security of our friends in the region and the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz," Fitzwater said. The group met Secretary of State George Shultz on Thursday. Mr. Shultz assured them the administration was vigorously working to deny arms to Iran after the secret sale of weapons to Tehran in 1985 and last year (See story on page 2).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

Second marrow transplant performed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian doctors on Friday performed their second successful bone-marrow transplant in the Kingdom on Mohammad Abu Al Hejja, 29, who suffered from aplastic anemia. The donor was the patient's brother Faisal, 32. Both the donor and the recipient were "steadily recovering" at the University of Jordan Hospital three hours after the operation which ended at 6:30 p.m., hospital sources said. Dr. Abdullah Owaidi, Al Abadi, a veteran hematologist at the hospital, headed a team of eight in the almost three-hour transplant. Friday's bone-marrow transplant was the second to be performed in Jordan and involved Al Hart, 26, who suffered from Hodgkin's disease, an atrophic disease that is characterized by a progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver and spleen and by progressive anemia. Dr. Abadi described Mr. Hart's health condition on Friday as "stable." He is showing signs of early improvement, said Dr. Abadi. Mr. Hart is expected to be discharged from hospital in two weeks.

Volume 12 Number 3469

AMMAN, SATURDAY MAY 9, 1987, RAMADAN 12, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King attends prayers at Aqaba mosque

AOABA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday attended prayers at the grand mosque in Aqaba. Also attending the prayers with His Majesty were Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and senior officials. In Amman, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended prayers at Al Husseini Mosque in downtown Amman. Also attending the prayer with the Crown Prince were Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayat, his Under-Secretary Abdul Salam Al Abbadi and senior government officials.

Arab League criticises Hungary

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League said Friday it had urged Hungary not to allow the World Jewish Congress (WJC) to hold its annual congress in Budapest this week. The league said it asked Hungary, the first communist state in which the WJC held such a meeting, not to do so until the organisation "renounced its racist options and policies contrary to international principles and resolutions, as well as human rights." Hungary's decision was all the more surprising because of its attachment to "socialist principles, rejecting all organisations based on racial and religious considerations," the league said in a statement. It said the WJC continued to support Israel's "policy of aggression and racial discrimination ... against the Palestinian people and Arab states."

U.S. team to visit Austria

VIENNA (R) — A senior delegation from the U.S. Justice Department, which last week barred Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from making private visits to the United States, will visit Vienna next week, a spokesman for the chancellery said Friday. The delegation will include Deputy Attorney-General Mark Richards as well as Neil Sher, head of the Office of Special Investigations, which drew up a report on Dr. Waldheim's World War Two record that formed the basis for the U.S. ban. Government sources said they were coming on Friday at the request of the Austrian government and would stay one day.

Conservatives gain in British elections

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party gained strongly in municipal elections, bolstering speculation Friday that Mrs. Thatcher will hold a general election next month, one year early. Conservative Party chairman Norman Tebbit claimed the results of Thursday's poll put the Tories "on our way to another terrific victory" that would give Mrs. Thatcher an unprecedented third successive term in office. Asked if that meant a June election, he said: "It could be." He also mentioned a possible autumn date. With 351 of the 369 districts decided, the British Broadcasting Corporation said the Conservatives held 118 cities and towns, a net gain of four, and Labour 102, down 7. The alliance had won 10 districts, including two net gains. The remainder went to independents or produced no single winner.

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Israelis stage third attack in 8 days, claim 11 more Arab lives

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — At least 11 people were killed when Israeli jets hit Palestinian camps in South Lebanon on Friday in the third Israeli attack on South Lebanon in eight days.

Police said at least 11 people, including two children, were killed and 40 were wounded when missiles slammed into a cluster of houses inside the big 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp southeast of Sidon.

Palestinians said 10 women and children had been killed. They said many of the casualties were inflicted by a single Israeli missile which hit the entrance to a bomb shelter.

Palestinians and rescue workers were still searching for victims, clawing with bare hands at the rubble of a dozen houses leveled in the raid. Another 25 houses were damaged.

Witnesses quoted by news agencies said six warplanes, covered by six other jets flying at high altitude, also fired missiles at six houses in hills around 'Ain Al Hilweh and the smaller 'Ain Mich camp.

Palestinian sources said the bases belonged to the Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). No fighters were injured in the attack, they added.

The raid came less than one hour after the PLO, in a statement issued in this southern city, said three of its fighters had been killed by Israeli troops who intercepted them on their way to the

border.

Abu Yasser, a PLO military commander, told reporters: "We now feel it is our right to strike at Israeli targets inside and outside Israel in revenge for our innocent martyrs."

Israeli jets struck a civilian district of 'Ain Al Hilweh on May 6, killing 10 people and destroying a score of houses. Eighteen people, including two children, were killed at 'Ain Mich on May 1 in Israel's most deadly air raid this year.

The PLO statement said its fighters clashed with an Israeli patrol near Teir Harfa village about three kilometres north of the border, inside an Israeli-declared "security zone."

In Tel Aviv an Israeli spokesman said two fighters who were trying to cross the border were killed and three others were wounded and captured.

The PLO statement said the fighters "clashed for more than six hours with the Israelis which led to the killing or injury of around 15 Israeli soldiers." It added that Israeli helicopters took part in the skirmish.

The statement said the fighters belonged to a martyr group of the May 6 air raid on 'Ain Al Hilweh.

It named the three dead as Suheil Mohammad Ismael Abu

Freij and Shawwa willing to attend peace talks as part of joint delegation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Two West Bank and Gaza leaders said Friday they would be willing to consider participating in an international conference on Middle East peace as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The two, Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, and Rashad Al Shawwa, the deposed mayor of Gaza, said in interviews they would look positively at such an invitation.

Mr. Freij said Palestinian delegations would need the blessing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). But Mr. Shawwa, who has been critical of the PLO's new hard line, left unclear the degree to which participation would need PLO approval.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and other members of his Labour Party have named the two as Palestinians with whom Israel would be willing to negotiate.

Israel has refused to negotiate with the PLO.

Mr. Shawwa, 78, said in a telephone interview that if asked to participate in a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation "I would consider it."

"And if I thought it was in the interest of the Palestinian cause I would look at it positively," added Mr. Shawwa, who was deposed twice by Israel as mayor of Gaza in 1973 and 1982.

Iranians hit Soviet ship

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — An Iranian gunboat has raked a Soviet freighter in the Gulf with cannon fire, the first attack on a Soviet vessel since the Iran-Iraq war broke out 6½ years ago, marine salvage executives reported Friday.

The attack on Wednesday came amid an exchange of heated words between Tehran and Moscow.

The attack on the 6,459-ton Ivan Koroteyev was seen as a signal from Tehran to Kuwait that its plans to transport its oil in Soviet and U.S. flag vessels will not stop Iranian attacks.

The Soviet vessel was hit about 128 kilometres east of Qatar in the southern sector of the Gulf and 50 kilometres from Iran's offshore Rostam oilfield.

The London-based Lloyds

an international peace conference.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reiterated his unequivocal opposition to the idea.

The escalating rhetoric from the two rival leaders four days before a scheduled showdown in their inner cabinet appeared to support predictions that the 31-month old coalition government was on the verge of collapse.

"If there is no agreement, there is no agreement," Mr. Peres said when asked what he would do if he failed to convince Mr. Shamir's rightist Likud bloc to go along with his plan in Monday's meeting.

"I will go to Mr. Shamir and say: This government is divided into two parts, let us turn to the nation for a choice," Mr. Peres said on Israel Television.

A key assistant to Mr. Shamir will visit the United States from Sunday, his office said Friday.

But aides disputed a radio report that the director general of Mr. Shamir's office, Yosef Ben Aharon, was being sent to seek U.S. support for the prime minister's rejection of a peace conference and pre-empt Mr. Peres, who is due in Washington next Wednesday.

Foreign ministry officials said Mr. Peres' U.S. trip was now in doubt because of the political situation in Israel.

Hart quits race for presidency

DENVER (Agencies) — A defiant Gary Hart abandoned the race for the Democratic presidential nomination on Friday, declaring "I refuse to submit myself, my family and my friends" to continued public scrutiny.

"I'm not a beaten man; I'm an angry and defiant man," Mr. Hart told a news conference in Denver.

Mr. Hart disappointed supporters at the news conference, who cheered briefly when the former Senator said, "Hell no," after he described a decision to make a quick announcement and quietly leave the scene.

Palestinian found killed in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The body of a Palestinian man whose throat had been cut was found in a neighbourhood of Arab Jerusalem on Friday, Israeli police said.

Police said they were investigating the identity of the dead man, who was in his 20s.

The discovery of the body came amid continuing Arab protests against the Israeli occupation.

The Israeli army clamped curfews on two occupied West Bank towns on Thursday after Palestinians buried firebombs at Israeli vehicles.

In the Kasba neighbourhood of Nablus, Palestinians threw stones at an army vehicle and then hurled a firebomb at soldiers who were chasing them, police said.

They said the army placed the area under curfew immediately after the petrol bomb attack, which caused no damage or injuries.

The army also clamped a curfew on the West Bank town of Qalqilia after a petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli vehicle.

A few hours later, Palestinians hurled three firebombs at an Israeli car in the village of Azoun, eight kilometres east of Qalqilia. There were no injuries or damage in either incident.

On Thursday, an Israeli minister visited Qalqilia's mayor, sharing a meal with him at his home after Jewish settlers rampaged through the Palestinian town for the second time in a month.

But the settlers vowed to step up night patrols in Qalqilia.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the left-wing Shami Party visited the home of Mayor Abdul Rahman Abu Seneia on Thursday in what he said was an act of protest against the activities of the settlers.

This was perhaps the first public reference by Cairo of its interest in the future of the occupied territory since the Camp

Jordan and Egypt agree to further strengthen cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee has concluded its meetings in Amman and signed minutes of the three-day deliberations which produced agreement to speed up cooperation between the two countries in all fields. The minutes said that Jordan and Egypt would each pay its share of the capital of \$30 million joint holding company by August 1 and called for a July meeting of the company to deal with the creation of four firms for fisheries, fodder and lean meat, agricultural seeds and a tourism investment company.

The holding company, to be based in Amman, is a major outcome of efforts for economic cooperation by the two countries

since they normalised ties in 1984. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who led Jordan's team, to the meetings, and Dr. Atef Sedki, who led the Egyptian team, signed the minutes for their respective countries.

Following are excerpts of the minutes carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Thursday.

Economy and trade

The committee decided to proceed with plans for the establishment of four companies on tourism, fisheries, agricultural seeds and a tourism investment company.

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nian side promised to issue licences for import Egyptian products within a given quota and urge the private sector to increase its imports of Egyptian goods.

It said that trade centres in both countries should not import products from either country in amounts exceeding the figures agreed on in previous trade protocols.

In this respect Jordan has said that it would import 5,000 tonnes of Egyptian aluminium, 20,000 tonnes of rice, and 5,000 tonnes of cotton. Egypt has asked to be supplied with 3,000 tonnes of Jordanian aluminium fluoride.

The two sides decided to take speedy steps for organising trade fairs for Egypt and Jordan in both

(Continued on page 3)

Egypt remains a party to peace talks on account of Gaza — Sedki

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Egyptian government has said that Cairo still retained its "administrative responsibility" over the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and that Egypt would participate in the negotiations aimed at ending the Israeli occupation of the 40-kilometre strip.

Speaking to Jordanian journalists on Wednesday night, Egyptian Premier Atef Sedki and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmar Abdul Meguid said Egypt would be invited to take part in the proposed conference on account of its responsibility towards Gaza.

This was perhaps the first public reference by Cairo of its interest in the future of the occupied territory since the Camp

on the Middle East.

"We are still trying to find a way to reconcile our concept with developments in the area," Dr. Sedki said.

Citing what he described as "developments" in positions of certain parties, Dr. Ahmad Meguid said direct negotiations "are no more a main precondition" for convening a conference.

Dr. Abdul Meguid confirmed that Cairo had "an administrative responsibility over Gaza," and that it was "a continuing responsibility."

Dr. Sedki said "I cannot imagine Egypt not invited to the conference."

The Egyptian premier said his talks with Jordanian leaders which came in the context of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee included discussions of the latest developments in efforts towards convening an international peace conference.

(Continued on page 3)

Arafat to send Wazir to Syria for fence-mending talks

SHARJAH (AP) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday his top military aide, who was ordered out of Damascus four years ago, would go to Syria within a week for reconciliation talks with President Hafez Al Assad, a newspaper reported.

Khalil Al Wazir, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deputy military commander, left Damascus in June 1983 after he and Mr. Arafat were declared persons non grata by Syrian authorities.

Syria then supported a mutiny within the PLO against Mr. Arafat's leadership.

In an interview with the Sharjah-based daily newspaper Al Khaleej, Mr. Arafat also predicted that an international conference for peace in the Middle East would be preceded by a long-delayed Arab summit conference.

The PLO will take part in the peace conference if the Arab states are able to unify their stands on the conference," said Mr. Arafat who is visiting the United Arab Emirates.

The delay in holding the summit has been mainly attributed to differences between the PLO and Syria, which hindered several previous attempts to hold the summit.

Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying he based his prediction about the international peace conference on signs of possible

(Continued on page 3)

Saudis said offering oil to Syria in return for better ties with Iraq

KUWAIT (AP) — Saudi Arabia has offered to supply Syria with 50,000 barrels of oil a day if Iran cuts off its supplies because of reported efforts by Damascus to reconcile with Iraq, Al Qabas daily reported Friday.

The newspaper repeated an earlier report that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq met recently near the H-4 area on the Jordanian-Iraqi border.

There has been no independent confirmation of the reported meeting. Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib has dismissed the reports as "press rumours."

The front-page Al Qabas report said the Sandi offer was made by Crown Prince Abdullah during the purported April 26 meeting.

Prince Abdullah heads an Arab League committee that has been trying for two years to reconcile Syria and Iraq.</

U.S. 'ready to back' U.N. arms embargo against Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is prepared in principle to back a U.N. arms embargo against Iran, U.S. officials have said.

Publicly, the State Department said it was ready to back "appropriate enforcement measures" against Iran or Iraq if either refused to cooperate with U.N. Security Council efforts to end their nearly seven-year war.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters this meant an arms embargo against Iran, which department spokesman Charles Redman Thursday again called the "recalcitrant party in the war."

"The United States is ready in principle to support the application of appropriate enforcement measures against either party which refused to cooperate with formal Security Council efforts to

end the war," Mr. Redman told reporters.

He declined to elaborate, but the officials said such measures would be confined to an arms embargo and exclude economic sanctions.

Mr. Redman did say that Washington would work actively with other governments to expand the scope of Washington's own efforts to deny arms to Iran.

"He was speaking after Secretary of State George Shultz met an Arab League delegation which is here to urge Washington to back Security Council moves to end the Iran-Iraq war.

The officials said moves to impose an arms embargo against

Muslim Brotherhood denies attack on ex-Egyptian aide

CAIRO (AP) — The Muslim Brotherhood on Thursday condemned an armed attack on a former interior minister two days ago, but objected to speculation that it could have been carried out by Muslim extremists.

A spokesman for the Brotherhood, a moderate religious group politically banned but represented in parliament under the banner of the opposition Labour Party, issued its statement to

news agencies by telephone.

It was apparently referring to newspaper reports that stressed the gunman's beard and long robe, typically worn by Muslim fundamentalists, and to a report that a Muslim group claimed responsibility for the attempt.

"The Brotherhood is asking the press to await the outcome of the investigation, and not to pin all incidents on the Muslim groups.

Hostage crisis frozen until after U.S., French elections

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's Islamic Shiite Muslim cleric said in an interview published Friday he does not expect movement in the issue of foreign captives held in Lebanon until after the U.S. and French presidential elections in 1988.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah told the new Lebanese daily newspaper Ash-Shams, or the sun, that the issue of hostages has been "frozen."

"The kidnappers have an interest in this freezing until the American and French elections in 1988," said Fadlallah, the spiritual guide of Hezbollah, or Party of God.

Hezbollah, a pro-Iranian faction, is said to be an umbrella for the radical hostage-holders, although it repeatedly has denied it.

Fadlallah's remarks were buried in an inside page of the conservative newspaper's first issue. The tabloid became Beirut's 13th daily publication.

There has been no word from the captors of foreign hostages for 36 days. Before then, the hostage-holders were steadily releasing communiques and videotaped messages from the captives.

The last message was April 2 by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine. The group then claimed that one of its four hostages, American Professor Alain Steen, was dying.

The silence has been coupled with a gradual tightening of a Syrian army ring around the predominantly Shi'ite slums of south Beirut, where most of the foreign hostages are believed held.

Syria deployed an estimated 7,500 soldiers in mainly Muslim west Beirut on Feb. 22 to end militia anarchy. But their peacekeeping mandate so far has excluded the southern suburbs.

In all, 24 foreigners are missing and believed kidnapped by several radical factions in Lebanon. They are eight Americans, six Frenchmen, two Britons, two West Germans, one Italian, one Irishman, one South Korean, an Indian and two unidentified foreigners who were seen being grabbed in January.

The abductions began shortly after Muslim militiamen wrested control of west Beirut from the Lebanese army in February 1984.

Also missing is Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite. He disappeared on Jan. 20.

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Japanese seamen boycott northern Gulf after attack

TOKYO (R) — Japanese seamen announced Friday they would refuse to sail into the northern Gulf until their safety could be assured following a shell and rocket attack on a Japanese-flag supertanker there.

A spokesman for the Japan Shipowners' Labour Relations Agency said the decision was reached at a meeting between the agency, which is in charge of monitoring safety, and the All Japan Seamen's Union.

He said the decision followed a statement Friday by Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari to Japan's parliament that Iran and Iraq had not responded to a ministry request that the two nations assure the safety of Japanese ships in the area.

The sources said Iranian Revolutionary Guards operated attack craft from the island.

They added that two Japanese-flag ships that were scheduled to stop at Mina Al Ahmadi in Kuwait within a few days were now anchoring off Ras Tanura in Saudi Arabia.

The sources said Japanese seamen would not sail north of Al Farisibay island because the attack on the Shuh Maru was made during the morning when the ship's Japanese flag was visible, indicating that the attack was deliberate.

The Shuh Maru was the second Japanese ship to be attacked during the six-and-a-half-year Gulf war.

The sources said the Shuh Maru was damaged by fire and was unable to sail north of Al Farisibay island because the attack on the Shuh Maru was made during the morning when the ship's Japanese flag was visible, indicating that the attack was deliberate.

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Jordan, U.S. sign accord on family health series

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation Thursday signed a one-year agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop a health communications programme for child survival, health and family planning.

USAID, press release said, is to design and implement a programme to improve the overall health of children in Jordan.

The agreement was signed by Mrs. Amal Al Mufli, director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Mr. Lewis Reade, USAID director in Jordan.

USAID has committed \$30,000 to support this joint venture, including technical assistance from the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, D.C. The project's main objective is to promote good family health by producing local programmes for T.V. and radio on the topics of family

health. Such topics may cover dehydration/diarrhoeal disease prevention, breastfeeding and family planning, respiratory diseases, child safety and problems of sanitation. Also, people will be trained as health educators to carry out the programme.

Although USAID is financing HealthCom projects in 17 countries, Jordan is the first Arab country to participate in the programme. Locally, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation will contribute \$30,000 for personnel and other costs. Dr. Sima Bahouth has been designated as project director.

This programme will encourage cooperation among a number of private voluntary organisations as well as governmental agencies. Special emphasis will be placed on coordination with the Ministry of Health, which has given its support to the project.

RJ head urges regional carriers for Third World

AMMAN (J.T.) — Third World nations should consider joining with neighbouring states to form regional carriers that would have greater resources and larger markets than fledgling carriers created for nationalistic reasons, Royal Jordanian (RU) Chairman Ali Ghandour said this week.

Mr. Ghandour, speaking to the International Aviation Club in Washington, D.C., praised the worldwide movement toward airline privatisation and U.S. airline deregulation as models for others to emulate. He noted that some protections must remain for carriers on thinner markets that are less price elastic, such as those developing nations.

The Third World, Mr. Ghandour said, "must be made to recognise the benefits of regionalisation." Similar efforts in the past, such as Scandinavia and the U.S., have paid off well, he said.

Carriers in Third World countries often are "crippled before they start to walk" by undercapitalisation, poorly defined objectives, inadequately trained staff and an ambiguous relationship with their governments. Debt equities ratios in some cases exceed five to one, making it impossible for carriers to cope with the industry's cyclical nature, he said.

Carriers in developing nations often find themselves without the cash flow to modernise their fleets, placing them at a competitive disadvantage, Mr. Ghandour said. Governments may force the carrier to serve unprofitable routes for political reasons, worsening their financial problem. IATA has helped with some of the difficulties by creating, in 1980, a task force for these airlines, concentrating on staff training, he said.

Airline privatisation is a "positive sign," Mr. Ghandour said, noting that it can widen airlines' "financial base," free them from "bureaucratic practices," improve staff morale through equity ownership, and "set profitability as the index of success."

Airlines with fewer ties to their governments, Mr. Ghandour said, will find it easier to enter into combinations with other carriers that benefit both parties, either through mergers or joint ventures, such as the recent agreement on technical cooperation and work sharing between Malaysian Airline System and Thai International.

He said consolidation of the U.S. industry is virtually complete, with the "political mood" in Washington, D.C., likely to prevent further concentration.

He predicted that within 18 months, a U.S. carrier will attempt to buy a foreign airline and that the European industry will be consolidated into five major airlines.

Some airlines and countries, however, are fighting the movements toward liberalisation and privatisation, continuing "to tread along old weary ways on a path fraught with danger," he said.

Mr. Ghandour said some European carriers in particular have resisted and resisted changes in the worldwide aviation regime.

"They were happy with the safety net" provided by the old regime, particularly to the weak and inefficient airlines, but the tide toward liberalisation could not be stemmed, he said. "Trustbusters" within the European Community, encountering opposition from airlines that saw several U.S. carriers go bankrupt, are pressing for "the best near-de regulation they can possibly hope for," that is 25% of routes between two countries protected for their airlines, and 75% open to competition.

Mr. Ghandour said he hoped that developing nations would place the economic importance of a strong air transportation system above nationalistic concerns for having their own airline.

While generalisations are difficult, Third World nations typically are producers of materials subject to changes in world prices. In many nations, armed conflicts are diverting attention from economic growth, he said.

Jordan and Egypt to boost cooperation

(Continued from page 1)

countries during 1987 with either

country selling goods worth \$2 million in the other through such fairs. They also decided to make further studies for facilitating the entry of agricultural products into either country.

Industry

The committee decided to set up a technical committee at the highest possible level to launch coordination and industrial integration between Egypt and Jordan.

This should be preceded by a general industrial survey in each country and defining unified industrial specifications.

The two sides decided to hold a meeting for a special technical committee in the coming month in Cairo to speed up measures for launching joint industrial ventures.

Planning

The committee decided to implement an executive programme for promoting cooperation between Egypt and Jordan in the process of carrying out their respective five-year national development plans.

In the process, the two countries will exchange visits by specialists in planning, will exchange information and expertise and will apply each other with the complete version of the five-year plans that are being implemented in both countries.

Agriculture

The committee noted with satisfaction the progress made in

bilateral cooperation in agriculture and decided to increase technical cooperation in agricultural statistics, marketing, grading and packing produce and in combating pests affecting agricultural crops. They also decided to organise training courses in the two countries during 1987 to raise the skill of agricultural technicians and agronomists. They decided to speed up work on finalising a feasibility study for setting up a company that will produce agricultural seeds.

Mining, oil and electricity

The committee said that the Egyptian side would dispatch a team of engineers to obtain training at the Al Hussein Thermal Power Station of Jordan and another team to discuss equipment required for setting up a Jordanian laboratory for testing

Amman with Cairo would not be feasible for Egypt.

The two sides will exchange studies and expertise in energy and solar energy and in producing energy from wind and will pursue plans for linking the national grids of Egypt and Jordan. They will also study the prospect of manufacturing electrical appliances in the two countries.

Services

The committee said it noted with satisfaction the progressive increase in the volume of traffic along the Aqaba-Nwbeibeh sea-land route, especially in the first three months of 1987 which witnessed an increase in vehicle traffic rather than passengers. The committee said a joint Jordanian-Egyptian transport committee should convene soon to make a

general assessment of the operations along this route and to introduce other facilities to promote transport.

The committee called on representatives of Jordan, Iraq and Egypt to meet to study practical steps to be taken for establishing an Arab navigational company grouping the three countries.

The committee also decided to call a joint team representing the civil aviation authorities of Egypt and Jordan to meet and finalise agreement on considering flights between the two countries as internal flights so as to offer further exemptions for Egyptian and Jordanian nationals. The Egyptian side said that it would speed up the process of transferring frozen deposits owned by the Royal Jordanian airline to Jordan but it said that a Jordanian-proposed shorter line linking Amman with Cairo would not be feasible for Egypt.

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Telecommunications

The committee noted with satisfaction the steps taken in linking the two countries' telephone networks.

Ministry of Higher Education

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Mr. Helmut Kutzin, president of SOS Children's Village Association, presents emblem and key to the village to Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor (Petra photo)

King and Queen inaugurate home for orphaned, abandoned children

By Nawa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — No sadness or bitterness could be found in the eyes of the orphans and abandoned children as they sang and danced at the official opening of the first SOS Children's Village in Jordan.

Inaugurating the village Thursday were Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor; the Queen is the honorary chairman of the SOS Children's Villages association in Jordan. Several senior Jordanian officials and president of the Austria-based SOS Children's Village, Helmut Kutzin, also attended the opening ceremonies during which short speeches were delivered by Mr. Jafar Tukan and Partners, the village provides a healthy and warm atmosphere for the 43 children presently living at the village. It can accommodate a maximum of 90 children.

Nine family houses have been built on 33 dunums of land located near the town of Tareq; the land was provided by the Jordanian Armed Forces. Each home is an independent unit with its own garden. Each one storey house consists of three bedrooms, each with three beds, one master bedroom, a large bathroom with double sinks, showers and toilets, a spacious red and white kitchen, a living and dining room, and small storage and laundry rooms.

Colourful curtains decorate wide windows. Simple and sturdy furniture caters to the needs of the children. A balcony overlooks one of the playgrounds or greenery.

The King said that children are the "future" and it is a duty to "prepare them to meet the challenges of life that await them," in order to live a happier and more stable life.

The SOS village which houses orphans and abandoned children, ages one to 11 in a family oriented atmosphere, is one of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and Mr. Kutzin. Later, Mr. Kutzin presented Their Majesties an emblem and key of the village and a commemorative stamp.

After the presentation, His

Majesty King Hussein addressed

journalists saying that the development of the youth is vital for

the development of the country.

"This village is a landmark, and I am very grateful for those who have worked to make this dream a reality."

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The Middle East in the year 2000

(Continued from page 4)

countrymen see the Middle East through the prism of our own national interests rather than the distorted lens of Israeli ambitions.

As a result of numerous factors — an inadequate knowledge of the area, the shrewd manipulation of opinion by the friends of Israel, the appeal of the Jews' tragic history — many Americans have adopted the slothful habit of viewing the Middle East more in terms of Jerusalem's short-term policies than of Washington's larger concerns. Yet the United States, with its worldwide responsibilities, caught up in a protracted struggle with another great power, cannot long afford to indulge such a habit. If it is to meet its responsibilities to itself as well as to others, it must shape and conduct a coherent Middle East policy tailored to its own objectives, rather than permitting itself to be outmaneuvered to the point of silently accepting, and even subsidising, the negation of its true interests.

To continue such a course of complaisant inaction can lead only to disaster, not only for the United States but for all Middle East nations, including Israel. Therefore, we must promptly undertake to refocus our country's attention on its national interests."

I applaud Mr. Ball's sagacity and admire his great sense of courage. He speaks out without fear or favour. And as James B. Conant, a famous educator and former president of Harvard University, said:

"Behold the turtle, he makes progress only when he sticks his neck out."

I am afraid little progress has been made because few people stick their necks out. Since Eisenhower, we have looked up to second-term presidents for hope of fair action, only to find that the second administration was more important than the first.

Watergate and Iranagate had to pop up at the wrong time to spoil our wish, fantasy or dream. And the more I come to grips with the U.S. electoral system, I lose heart. It is worthy of mention that when the Congress was debating the resumption of U.S. aid to Turkey which was cut off as a result of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, a U.S. congressman from New York was asked why he did not support the bill, knowing where U.S. strategic interests lay.

Replied: "In my district there are more Greek restaurants than there are Turkish baths." On a more serious note, Philip Geyelin writing for the Washington Post in November, 1985 described the upmanship of senators Kasten and Inouye with respect to U.S. aid to Israel, particularly to effect a "hug-down" of the interest that Israel pays on its loans from the United States, from about 11.5 per cent to five per cent and prompted him to conclude by saying "what is going on here would appear to be yet one more example of Israel's best friends in America being more Israeli than the Israelis."

It is very unfortunate that official America fails to see U.S.-Arab relations, politically and economically, in proper perspective. Israel is smartly and neatly presented as a strategic asset whereas the like-minded pro-Western Arab countries are viewed as unreliable partners. U.S. policy is one-sided and treats Palestine, not the Palestinians, as a non-problem, ignoring the basic issue that the Palestinians' plight cannot be settled without paying due regard to land settlement. Hence, the equation of trading territory for peace. Even though the Palestinian question may not in the Arab realm occupy the same paramount position it once did, it still remains an explosive issue to be reckoned with. At the same time, sight is lost of the community of economic interests between the U.S. and the Arab World. Dr. Thomas Stauffer in a detailed and comprehensive paper he presented in a conference in Toledo, Ohio on March 14 last year on this subject remarked:

"The Middle East market, in spite of our political posture, is still large. Currently it accounts for some \$20-plus billion of exports, and an estimated \$10 billion in services purchased from the United States. The Middle East alone, therefore, accounts for 10 to 12 per cent of our total exports-volume which in this day and age is not to be sneezed at. About 750,000 American jobs are directly at stake today in the Middle East. But the direct employment understates what is at risk because the indirect jobs are excluded. If General Motors exports a car to Saudi Arabia, for example — it is one of the few markets left for 'Detroit Iron' — there are jobs at GM. But that job at GM also creates a number of jobs elsewhere throughout the system for GM suppliers and sub-suppliers, sub-contractors and sub-sub-contractors. Thus, when all is said and done we find that something like 3 million Americans directly and consequently

have their livelihoods tied to our present trade with the Middle East."

In contrast, Dr. Stauffer has this to say about Israel:

"The U.S. economic relationship with Israel is especially costly in terms of American jobs. First of all, the fact that U.S. aid is de facto tied to U.S. goods translates into a loss of about 300,000 per year directly and indirectly. A further cost to U.S. workers is the special privileges given Israeli exports in the United States, for which the United States does indeed pay — unlike our exports to Israel. The special preferences and broad duty-free status accorded to Israel's exports to the United States result in the loss of still another 50,000 to 100,000 jobs — an arrangement peculiar to Israel and not affecting other Middle East exports to the United States."

It is sad that while the Arabs justifiably find fault with the United States, they do not fault themselves for the present dismal state of affairs. All along they seemingly had not an effective foreign policy, and if they did it must have been a closely guarded secret! For one thing, they did not, unlike the Israelis, speak of one mind but rather, beyond rhetoric, disparate noises were heard all over the place to no avail.

What compounded the problem was that the newly-emerged Arab states and endowed with oil wealth had a say in Arab affairs completely out of proportion to their size and background. This contrasts with the American Jews who in spite of their wealth and influence deferred during and after the World War II to the European Zionists for leadership and direction in all matters pertaining to Palestine. Understandably, the Arabs had no constituency to speak of in the United States, but they have not seriously attempted to reach for the minds and hearts of the American people in order to influence the direction of U.S. foreign policy in a fair and objective manner. Worse still, the Arabs had no policy at all in Israel and subsequently in the occupied territories. In other words, the Arabs could — and should — have become a factor in U.S. and Israeli politics. Great opportunities had been lost and instead of the Arabs being masters of their own destiny, the future of the area is in the final analysis being decided by a self-correcting equilibrium of interests amongst the superpowers, totalling Israel.

It is a paradox that the oil boom instead of playing into the hands of the Arabs has played against them. In the West and particularly in the U.S. we have been viewed as the Shylock of modern times. The portrait of the ugly Arab had become uglier and the image of the Arab seemed to vary inversely with his wealth.

In the heyday of oil it was convenient, almost fashionable, to blame the economic ills of the world, particularly the Western nations, on the Arab oil producing countries. High oil prices were incriminated as the cause factor of world-wide recession, inflation, high interest rates and high unemployment. It was conveniently forgotten that the oil revenues amassed during the unprecedented era of high production and high prices had fallen into the hands of the provident but into the hands of the prodigal Arabs and consequently were recycled into the Western economies in the form of bank deposits, increased demand for goods and services, and the purchase of arms. It is absolutely staggering that arms deliveries on government-to-government basis to Third World countries exceeded \$5.7 billion in 1980. And Russia too has been no mean beneficiary. The sad thing though is that the sale of arms has become a very respectable business for the exporting countries to the extent that peddling takes place at the highest official levels.

Oil prices have recently tumbled, and the downward trend has taken on an ironic and sinister twist. Again the Arab is the villain-of-the-piece. The economic ills of Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas are blamed on falling and low oil prices and the Arabs and themselves in the unusual paradox of damned-if-you-do and damned-if-you-don't.

Oddly enough the United States now maintains that it could live comfortably with a price of oil at \$20 per barrel, even slightly higher, which is deemed as a "support level" to encourage oil production and exploration at home. Additionally, the U.S., despite higher prices, is said to face almost inevitable new crisis. "Over dependence on costly and insecure foreign sources of oil could well be the major national problem of the 1990s," said Charles J. Dibona, president of the American Petroleum Institute, a trade association.

I ask myself, as you would probably do too, why insecure sources? Since the flow of oil was at one time secure and abundant at \$4 a barrel, why shouldn't it be

secure and abundant at \$20? Let us remember that both suppliers and consumers have a vested interest in the stability of oil prices, bearing in mind that oscillations in commodity prices have wreaked havoc on national economies and distorted patterns of international trade.

No review of the Middle East situation can be complete without taking into consideration the Iran-Iraq war which drags on into its seventh year with no end seemingly in sight. Two things characterise the war. Firstly, this confrontation between Iran and Iraq has very little roots in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and secondly the downfall of the Shah was brought about by Muslim clerics who are intent on spreading Islamic fundamentalism beyond their shores. This wave of Islamic zeal is not without significance and presents challenges to policy-makers in the West, East and particularly Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. In this context it is well to remember that Lenin, himself, once said, "ideas are more fatal than guns."

As a result of the war, mutual mass destruction of life and property continues to take place on a gigantic scale. The conscience of man is not pricked anymore; there are so many wars and mini-wars taking place simultaneously around the globe that people have subconsciously developed built-in immunity to shock and do not react to tragedy beyond the expression of peripheral interest and sympathy. The Iraqi-Iran war has become the forgotten war. Nonetheless, it bebores us to assess the long-term implications of the conflict. The economic consequences of the war are not too difficult to assess. Suffice it to say, that the war has, amongst other things, siphoned off the excess liquidity of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. But the war will leave in its wake a torrential wave of mutual hate and enmity which will take generations to forgive and to forget. One has only to look at the traditional enmity between France and Germany to realise how slow the healing process is. Will Iraq and Iran produce in due course leaders of the likes of a Charles de Gaulle and a Konrad Adenauer to perform the miracle of rapprochement?

The outcome of the Iraqi-Iran war is unpredictable, and will probably end in a no-win contest. However, there is nothing to prevent us from visualising a few scenarios. In the event of an Iranian military victory, the U.S., aided and abetted by the West, will opt for the occupation of the Gulf. The Soviets, thus provoked will settle for the occupation of Iran. Russia has been in occupation of north-western Iran before and if it had not been for U.S. nuclear superiority under the Truman administration would not have withdrawn in 1946. Israel, with the hardliners in power, will probably seize on the situation and undertake adventurism in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to force peace on the Arabs on their own terms. Here we see the game of nations played all over again without precedent in the annals of history. The superpowers, including Israel, will have achieved, at the expense of the Arabs, their strategic objectives. There is little fear of the Third World war being ignited because of the mutual fears of nuclear conflagration.

If the war ends in a negotiated settlement as it probably will, Islamic fundamentalism will not lose its appeal. In fact Islamic fundamentalism had its supporters long before the Iranian revolution because the return to Islamic precepts is seen as succeeding where nationalism has failed to unify the Arabs under one banner. Consequently, one would see Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, because of close geographic proximity and deep-seated Islamic traditions, becoming prone to the Islamic fundamentalist movement. On the other hand in the rest of the region there will be a call for unity under a national banner to assert nationalism, which is already deeply-rooted, in order to enhance a pluralistic society, stem the Islamic tide and to stand up to Israel, if not militarily, politically.

The Iranian revolution which is seen as the spearhead for Islamic fundamentalism will continue to resonate but will not decide the future of the Middle East. The Arab-Israeli conflict will.

Already there are hopeful signs on the horizon. The supposedly divergent interests of interested parties in the dispute seem for once to be converging in search of a modus vivendi on which a strong peace can be established. Demographic change is exerting pressures all over which cannot be ignored.

In the West Bank of Jordan and under Israeli occupation, the Palestinian population has grown by 25 per cent since the June war of 1967 and continues to grow. At the same time the "successor generations" of Palestinians are far more patriotic than their elders and will not suffer the

occupation lying down. These two considerations pose problems to Israeli political strategists.

Israel cannot afford to procrastinate on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the fate of the Palestinians. Already, Israel is faced with a dilemma. Will she be "democratic" or "Jewish"? She cannot be both and Israel cannot have her cake and eat it too. Moshe Dayan had once remarked that the Jewishness of the Jewish state must be maintained at all costs.

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In the West Bank of Jordan and under Israeli occupation, the Palestinian population has grown by 25 per cent since the June war of 1967 and continues to grow. At the same time the "successor generations" of Palestinians are far more patriotic than their elders and will not suffer the

occupation lying down. These two considerations pose problems to Israeli political strategists.

Israel cannot afford to procrastinate on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the fate of the Palestinians. Already, Israel is faced with a dilemma. Will she be "democratic" or "Jewish"? She cannot be both and Israel cannot have her cake and eat it too. Moshe Dayan had once remarked that the Jewishness of the Jewish state must be maintained at all costs.

This wave of Islamic zeal is not without significance and presents challenges to policy-makers in the West, East and particularly Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. In this context it is well to remember that Lenin, himself, once said, "ideas are more fatal than guns."

As a result of the war, mutual mass destruction of life and property continues to take place on a gigantic scale. The conscience of man is not pricked anymore; there are so many wars and mini-wars taking place simultaneously around the globe that people have subconsciously developed built-in immunity to shock and do not react to tragedy beyond the expression of peripheral interest and sympathy. The Iraqi-Iran war has become the forgotten war. Nonetheless, it bebores us to assess the long-term implications of the conflict. The economic consequences of the war are not too difficult to assess. Suffice it to say, that the war has, amongst other things, siphoned off the excess liquidity of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. But the war will leave in its wake a torrential wave of mutual hate and enmity which will take generations to forgive and to forget. One has only to look at the traditional enmity between France and Germany to realise how slow the healing process is. Will Iraq and Iran produce in due course leaders of the likes of a Charles de Gaulle and a Konrad Adenauer to perform the miracle of rapprochement?

The outcome of the war is not an end in itself but the means to achieve practical and desirable objectives. I foresee a number of mini-conferences emerging to deal with the major issues over a protracted period of time, but progress will be made because of the general will to succeed. I visualise the conference coming out in favour of the creation of a Palestinian entity in confederation with Jordan. This will satisfy Arab nationalism as it will be seen as the forerunner of a wider Arab confederation to which the Arabs have aspired. Israel's security will have been guaranteed, and Israel will have through its actions earned its place in the midst of the Arab World without forsaking her own identity.

Within Israel, ethnic stratification presents policy considerations. The oriental Jews vis-a-vis the Ashkenazis have become the mino-minority and a force to be reckoned with in Israeli elections. Abba Eban, then minister of education in Ben Gurion's government expressed fears lest oriental Jews drag into "unnatural orientalism." I believe Israel's policy-makers have a direct interest in the Soviet's glasnost, "openness," that is taking place now in the hope that they can draw on the reservoir of Russian Jewry to offset the present demographic challenge.

At the same time, the Jonathan Pollard affair has presented a new dimension to the various forces at play. Parallel may be drawn between the Alfred Dreyfus case at the turn of the last century and the Pollard affair in that both created and spearheaded animosity and ill-feeling. The difference though is that Dreyfus was acquitted and vindicated while Pollard has been convicted and is serving a prison term.

The upshot is simple: Israel cannot take U.S. Jewry for granted. Richard Cohen writing for the Washington Post last month stated:

"Israel enjoys great love and respect in America, particularly from a Jewish community which, like a mother, has always been willing to forgive, but there are signs that it is taking America and the Jewish community for granted. The Pollard case is a nightmare come true for American Jews. In Mr. Pollard the Israelis created an anti-semitic stereotype: An American Jew of confused loyalties who sold out his country. Indignation and shame are felt in equal measure."

For a change, American Jews, now Jewish Americans, will increasingly become less subservient to Israeli wishes, and will view their interests in a wider U.S. and global context, and consequently U.S. foreign policy to

be more exposed to Islamic fundamentalism.

I have taken you on a trip into the past and present in the process exacted your patience. What else could I have done? Kierkegaard had said, "Life must be lived forwards but can only be understood backwards."

Ladies and gentlemen, the future we all know is fraught with perils, but I see a new beginning. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt:

"We see across the dangers the great future, and we rejoice as a giant refreshed — the great victories are yet to be won, the greatest deeds yet to be done."

Thank you.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — May 9, 1987

8:30 Dad's Army

9:00 Simon and Simon

10:20 Eurovision Song Contest, 1987

Live via Satellite from Belgium.

11:30 Feature Film

The Man Who Knew Too Much

wards the Middle East will reflect this change in perspective.

In the USSR too, convulsive demographic changes are taking place. As a U.S. strategist has pointed out: "These changes are shifting the balance of population to Muslim Russia and away from the shrinking population of the mother Russia where its government, industry and education are concentrated." In this light, the Soviets will not want to create conditions conducive to the rise of militant Islam and may want to pacify the region in its own interest rather than fish in troubled waters.

The U.S., on the other hand, for the reasons that I have explained, and prodded along by the moderate Arabs, will want to see an end to the impasse and pacify the region in its own interests too. Saudi and Gulf oil supplies and reserves remain central to U.S. strategic imperatives in the area.

At long last, the climate seems favourable to the holding of an international conference on the Middle East. Why? Russia did not want to be excluded in the first place, and the Arab consensus seems to favour Soviet presence at such a conference in order to, in the absence of military parity with the Israelis, bolster their own posture. The Israelis, particularly the Labour Party, have finally come around because it is being realised that an international conference is the only acceptable avenue that can be explored to produce "peace in our time."

The international conference is not an end in itself but the means to achieve practical and desirable objectives. I foresee a number of mini-conferences emerging to deal with the major issues over a protracted period of time, but progress will be made because of the general will to succeed. I visualise the conference coming out in favour of the creation of a Palestinian entity in confederation with Jordan. This will satisfy Arab nationalism as it will be seen as the forerunner of a wider Arab confederation to which the Arabs have aspired. Israel's security will have been guaranteed, and Israel will have through its actions earned its place in the midst of the Arab World without forsaking her own identity.

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At the same time, the Jonathan Pollard affair has presented a new dimension to the various forces at play. Parallel may be drawn between the Alfred Dreyfus case at the turn of the last century and the Pollard affair in that both created and spearheaded animosity and ill-feeling. The difference

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Friday.

One Sterling	1.6790/6800	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3350/60	Canadian dollar
	1.7840/47	West German marks
	2.0155/25	Dutch guilders
1.4670/80		Swiss francs
36.90/37.10		Belgian francs
5.9550/9600		French francs
1239/1259		Italian lira
139.40/50		Japanese yen
6.2200/50		Swedish krona
6.6550/6600		Norwegian kroner
6.6925/75		Danish kroner
One ounce of gold	455.80/456.30	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equity prices in late trading continued to improve on record highs achieved earlier in the day following news of a half point cut in U.K. clearing bank base rates to nine per cent. Earlier, trading values were boosted by encouraging support for the ruling Conservative Party in Thursday's local elections.

At 1445 GMT Friday the FTSE 100 index stood at a record intra-day high of 2,136.3, up 58.4. The market now awaits news of the date of the next U.K. general election, widely expected for June 11, and faces the prospect of a further fall in base rates on continued sterling strength, dealers said.

Sterling's resilience to the recent fall in U.K. interest rates, highlighted by its reported brief advance above 3.0 marks Friday despite news of the 1/2 point cut in base rate, reinforces expectations of a further similar fall ahead of the expected general election date. There is some speculation that a full point cut to eight per cent may be on the cards, dealers said. Sterling closed unchanged at a trade weighted 73.6.

Privatised issues featured among the heavily traded stocks, gaining ground after an apparent weakening in the Labour Party.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a Saturday to do those things and see those persons who have proven stalwart and satisfactory in your life. Use caution in any undertakings today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan your activities so that arguments will not surface. Partners could be in an irate mood, so maintain your poise.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study your appearance and see how best to improve it. Your mate may be a little testy today, so be careful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get busy improving your home. Tonight you may find your fondest pleasures lacking in excitement.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Though the conditions at home need a bit of adjustment, invite guests in tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A business situation arises that lets you forget a different business worry, but by banding one you solve the other.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You need to study a personal matter more before you can start any action on it. Avoid a greedy friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A private affair can spoil your morning if you let it. Show consideration for your mate and try not to disturb this person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A new contact could prove trying. Your mate may be demanding, but remain pleasant and poised.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you are conscientious in handling an outside affair you get good results. Be your independent self now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) It is wise to dig up further facts connected with an important matter, so wait before moving ahead.

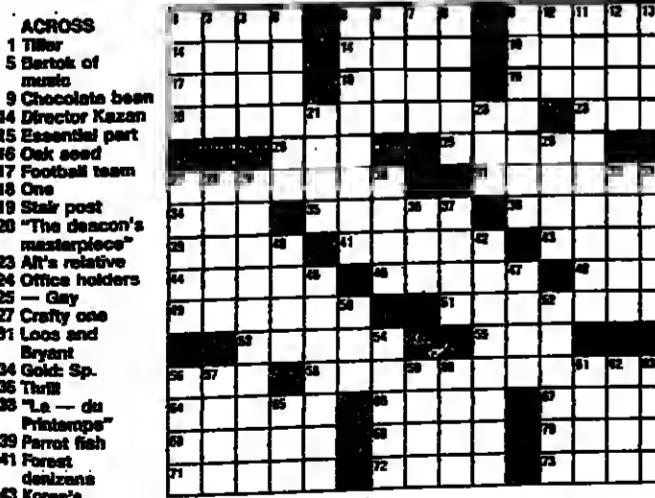
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Plan how to be more precise where your accounts are concerned. Show more loyalty for your mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Avoid long talks with an associate since this could result in an argument. You find it hard to keep promises now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will need to learn patience. This child will want everything to proceed exactly as desired, so teach this one to be more objective and learn to cope with life's vicissitudes. A profession allowing the expression of this humanitarian is the best choice.

THE Daily Crossword

by C.F. Murray



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Tuna	2. P	3. P	4. P	5. P	6. P	7. P	8. P	9. P	10. P	11. P	12. P	13. P	14. P	15. P	16. P	17. P	18. P	19. P	20. P	21. P	22. P	23. P	24. P	25. P	26. P	27. P	28. P	29. P	30. P	31. P	32. P	33. P	34. P	35. P	36. P	37. P	38. P	39. P	40. P	41. P	42. P	43. P	44. P	45. P	46. P	47. P	48. P	49. P	50. P	51. P	52. P	53. P	54. P	55. P	56. P	57. P	58. P	59. P	60. P	61. P	62. P	63. P	64. P	65. P	66. P	67. P	68. P	69. P	70. P	71. P	72. P	73. P	74. P	75. P	76. P	77. P	78. P	79. P	80. P	81. P	82. P	83. P	84. P	85. P	86. P	87. P	88. P	89. P	90. P	91. P	92. P	93. P	94. P	95. P	96. P	97. P	98. P	99. P	100. P
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Egyptian reforms start to bite

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's economic reforms, launched this month to secure International Monetary Fund (IMF) help and debt rescheduling by Western governments, are starting to bite.

Barring last-minute snags, the IMF executive board on May 15 will approve an accord giving the most populous Arab state \$300 million in standby credit over the next year, diplomats said.

In return, Egypt has raised prices of some fuels, is preparing to liberalise its multi-tier exchange rate system over 18 months by letting commercial banks fix a market rate, and is curbing bank lending in an attempt to cut 25 per cent inflation.

The credit squeeze — an order pegging the growth in loans of eight banks to 2.5 per cent of last year's total — has already forced some banks to call in overdrafts and refuse customers.

"It's biting," one banker said. "Some banks had already passed the ceiling and are turning hush-hush down."

The business community is now waiting for details of Prime Minister Atef Sedki's exchange rate reforms before assessing long-term prospects. The IMF has set tight performance conditions and will be monitoring the economy closely, bankers and diplomats say.

But one immediate objective — rescheduling of Cairo's \$38.6 billion foreign debt — is on course.

With an IMF deal serving as a stamp of approval, Western creditor governments are due to discuss terms during meetings May 18-22 of the informal Paris Club, diplomats said.

Negotiations with individual creditor governments, likely to produce revised repayment periods of 10 to 15 years with five to seven years grace, could take six to nine months.

The World Bank is expected to disburse loans for industrial and agricultural projects of \$200 million in 1987/88 starting July 1 —

with more later — following Cairo's reform commitments.

Egypt has strong Western political backing for its efforts to handle intractable economic problems, compounded since last year by hard currency shortages at a time of heavy foreign debt payments.

Its strategic location and key role in Middle East peace efforts are the only Arab country to have normal ties with Israel make it a special case, diplomats said.

A key part of the IMF's expectations is the planned move towards unification of the country's complex exchange rate system for the national currency, the pound.

Under new rules to be announced soon, a committee of eight banks will fix daily dollar/pound rates to compete with technically illegal but tolerated foreign market brokers, government officials said.

"Sooner or later the government will have to raise prices for consumers and this could spell trouble," one diplomat said.

President Hosni Mubarak has pledged to protect the poorest of the poor and Mr. Sedki has said state subsidies of some \$2 billion a year on basic commodities will stay.

If Egypt fails to meet performance criteria, the IMF can waive its requirements, a political decision, or suspend the programme.

The government plans to raise electricity prices for consumers of over 500 kilowatts a month to soot the rich and spare the poor.

From May 1, it trebled prices of fuel oil and raised prices of gas oil, diesel and kerosene over 50 per cent. But petrol stayed the same and prices are well below world levels.

The credit squeeze has had one success as banks call in loans to speculators who had borrowed pounds to buy dollars at inflated rates.</

Botha wins landslide victory in South African elections

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Agencies) — Business leaders Friday urged the government to take advantage of its election victory to make rapid reforms of apartheid.

The National Party government of President P.W. Botha indicated the process could be a slow one.

"It may be expected that there will be purposeful progress along that (reform) course in the months and years ahead," the state-run South African Broadcasting Corp. said in a radio editorial.

When Mr. Botha called Wednesday's election for the white, and dominant chamber of parliament two years early, he said he was seeking a mandate to negotiate with representatives of the voiceless black majority.

Parliament also has chambers representing people of Asian descent and those of mixed race.

Under apartheid, the country's 24 million blacks have no vote in national affairs. By law and by custom, the 5 million whites control the economy and maintain separate districts, schools and health services.

Soviets accuse U.S. of raising radiation levels

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Foreign Ministry has accused the United States of increasing atmospheric radiation outside its territory with nuclear tests that the Kremlin claims violate a 1963 treaty.

Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov issued the accusation during a news briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists Thursday.

Asked whether the alleged increase in radioactive isotopes exceeded internationally accepted health standards, Mr. Gerasimov said he had no details.

The ministry statement appeared to be another step in the Kremlin's effort to convince the United States it should agree to a superpower ban on nuclear tests.

"Competent Soviet bodies have thoroughly checked the results of the analysis of samples of

rule, collected the most votes in the poll, which was published Thursday. Mandela is serving a life term.

Since it is illegal to quote Mandela except for statements he made during his trial, the paper published a statement Friday from his wife, Winnie.

She quoted from his defense statement: "I feel oppressed by the atmosphere of white domination that lurks all around this courtroom. It reminds me that I am voiceless because there is a parliament in this country that is white-controlled."

Mr. Botha said in a television interview Thursday night that the Nationalists, who increased their parliamentary majority, had received "a clear mandate from the electorate to pursue security for the country and its people as a primary objective."

He said the government would also pursue reform that would be "constitutional and gradual."

"To us this is obviously bad news," said an editorial in the Sowetan, a Johannesburg newspaper for black readers. "We blacks will suffer the brunt of radical right-wing policies being thrust down the government's throat."

The Sowetan had conducted its own newspaper poll, in which readers, no matter what their race, could vote for the president of their choice. Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, military wing when he was imprisoned in 1962 for sabotage and conspiracy against white

rule, collected the most votes in the poll, which was published Thursday. Mandela is serving a life term.

"We challenge the state president's statement that change will come through a parliamentary that has received a mandate for war from its electorate," the Five Freedoms Forum said.

"Extra-parliamentary organizations are seeking non-violent solutions for South Africa. Whites committed to peace and a common future for all South Africans are not the real threat."

Black leaders greeted the result with dismay. Nobel Peace Prize-winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a prominent black campaigner against apartheid, said: "I believe we have entered the dark ages in the history of our country."

Asked about the future, Zulu leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi told a radio interview: "I can only see blood."

The swing to the right had given credibility to those who saw bloodshed as the only answer to South Africa's racial crisis, Buthelezi said.

The all-white election met strong opposition from the voiceless black majority, with 1.5 million workers and students staging a massive strike on election day.

The plot was thwarted when an individual recruited for the operation contacted the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI),

S. African envoy rebuked by Australia over expulsion

(Bob Hawke) yesterday.

When asked about the tone of the meeting, the spokesman said: "It's very hard to see it as friendly."

Mr. Hawke told reporters Thursday: "This (expulsion) is further evidence of the totally obnoxious nature of that regime."

Mr. Bastiaan spent about 15 minutes with senior officials who conveyed Australia's anger over the expulsion of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) journalist and his producer Jennifer Ainge two days ago.

In a statement later he said it was up to the South African government to comment on the discussion at the department.

Japanese air force jet crashes during training

TOKYO (AP) — A twin-engine jet of Japan's Air Self-Defense Force crashed Friday into the sea off Miyazaki Prefecture on the southern main island of Kyushu, a Defense Agency official said.

The jet's two crewmen, Maj. Naoki Oki, pilot of the T-2 trainer jet, and Maj. Kazutoshi Ogata, co-pilot, were missing, spokesman Kansuke Matsuda said.

The two-seater jet crashed about 150 kilometres east of the Nyutabaru base in Miyazaki during routine training with another jet at about 9:14 a.m. (0014 GMT), Matsuda said.

He said the cause of the crash was not immediately known.

Matsuda quoted a pilot aboard the other plane, which returned safely to the base, as saying he did not see either of the missing men bail out of the jet.

ICRC gets new president

GENEVA (R) — Cornelio Sommaruga, a former Swiss economics minister, has taken over the presidency of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Mr. Sommaruga, 55, becomes the 12th president of the all-Swiss humanitarian body since its foundation by Henry Dunant in 1863.

He was elected president by the ICRC assembly in July for a four-year term, renewable for two more four-year periods. He succeeds Alexandre Hay.

The ICRC is best known for

Bokassa accused of embezzlement

BANGUI (R) — Ousted Central African dictator Jean-Bedel Bokassa has been accused of embezzling funds from the state-run Social Security Agency.

The 65-year-old former emperor is being tried on a variety of crimes ranging from murder to cannibalism and embezzlement.

On Thursday Camille Malikanga, a senior controller with the Social Security Agency, told the court Bokassa pocketed up to \$13.3 million in contributions while he held the social affairs portfolio between 1974 and 1976.

Mr. Malikanga said two of

Support broadens for access to war crime files

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States and two other countries have joined Israel in appealing to the U.N. administration to allow more public access to 8,000 confidential files on Nazi war crimes.

The new appeals come amid a flurry of actions worldwide against suspected war criminals, including Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, the former U.N. secretary-general. It was the disclosure of Dr. Waldheim's file in the archives of the defunct U.N. War Crimes Commission that touched off Israel's campaign for public access to the documents.

Much of the information in the files already is in the public domain, but Israel contends that the access restrictions could shield war criminals from justice. The files — containing the names of 36,000 accused war cri-

Ortega blames Reagan in assassination plot

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has said he held U.S. President Ronald Reagan indirectly responsible for a plot by two American right-wing extremists to assassinate him.

"It is clear that this is a product of President Reagan's hysteria against Nicaragua," Mr. Ortega told reporters, referring to the plot revealed by the U.S. Justice Department Thursday.

"Because of President Reagan's policy (against Nicaragua), many people like the two people being accused may think it is correct to assassinate the president of Nicaragua," Mr. Ortega said.

Black leaders greeted the result with dismay. Nobel Peace Prize-winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a prominent black campaigner against apartheid, said: "I believe we have entered the dark ages in the history of our country."

Asked about the future, Zulu leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi told a radio interview: "I can only see blood."

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The all-white election met strong opposition from the voiceless black majority, with 1.5 million workers and students staging a massive strike on election day.

The plot was thwarted when an individual recruited for the operation contacted the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI),

department officials said.

Mr. Ortega said Nicaragua previously had thwarted attempts promoted by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to assassinate him and other Sandinista leaders, but gave no details.

He said the two men accused in the plot might have been "indirectly manipulated" by the CIA.

An indictment against the two plotters said they planned a reconnaissance mission to Nicaragua and Honduras to gather information to use in the assassination.

Mr. Ortega was visiting a school for hearing-impaired children, accompanied by Academy Award-winning actress Marlee Matlin, who won an Oscar last month for her starring role in *Children of a Lesser God*.

"Whatever dreams the Nicaraguans may have, they should never abandon them," said the actress, speaking in sign language and through an interpreter.

Mr. Matlin is now performing in a Hollywood film being made here about a 19th century American adventurer, William Walker, who led a band of 50 mercenaries to Nicaragua in 1855, took over the country and ruled for two years as president.

COLUMNS 7&8

Ancient cemetery found in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — A bulldozer leveling ground in Bahrain suddenly toppled into a hole and found itself in the middle of what appears to be an ancient cemetery, a newspaper reported Friday. Bahrain's Akbar Al Khaleej daily said many little rooms, probably old burial grounds, had been found in the hole. The local Antiquities Department immediately ordered all work in the area stopped until the find could be evaluated and its period identified. Antiquities in Bahrain, an island state in the Gulf, date back to its pre-Islamic Hellenistic period about 2,000 years ago and also include burial mounds of the Dilmun civilization 4,000 years ago.

China restores tomb of Genghis Khan

PEKING (R) — China has restored the tomb of Genghis Khan, who is still honored as a national hero among Mongolians despite his reputation for barbarity in the West. The New China News Agency has said that the equivalent of \$800,000 has been spent on renovations to the tomb which include a display of Genghis Khan's whip, saddle and sabre. People in what is now the inner Mongolian region of China have gathered at the site for harvest ceremonies annually since Genghis Khan's death in 1227, the agency said. The spread of his empire across Asia terrified Europe 800 years ago, especially as he had a record of cruelty which included such practices as decorating monuments with the skulls of his victims.

U.S. Congressman dies of AIDS

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican congressman died Thursday from a bacterial infection brought on by AIDS contracted from a blood transfusion, his office said. A statement issued by the office of Representative Stewart B. McKinney, 56, quoted the congressman's personal physician, Dr. Cesar Caceres, as saying Mr. McKinney contracted the disease from blood transfusions he received while undergoing heart-bypass surgery in 1979. The statement said: "Stewart McKinney died of pneumonia, a bacterial infection brought on by acquired immune deficiency syndrome."

Syphilis cases on the rise in U.S.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The number of reported syphilis cases in the United States has increased dramatically in the first three months of 1987, nearly doubling in Los Angeles county, South Florida and New York City, according to a published report. The increase appears to be mostly among heterosexuals, often female prostitutes and intravenous drug users, public health officials told the Los Angeles Times. They cautioned, however, that the outbreaks still are under investigation and that different factors may explain the venereal disease's increase. The number of syphilis cases nationwide had been on the decrease since 1982. But cases of infectious syphilis increased nationally about 25 percent in the first three months of 1987 compared to the same period in 1986, according to the Federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. In Los Angeles county, syphilis cases increased about 95 percent, in Florida 97.4 percent, and in New York City 103.5 percent, the newspaper said.

Welles' ashes buried in Spanish well

RONDA, Spain (AP) — The ashes of Orson Welles were buried Thursday in a dry well in the patio of the ranch in this southern Spanish town belonging to his longtime friend and Spanish bullfighter Antonio Ordóñez. The simple ceremony broadcast on the afternoon news program of Spanish television showed Welles' daughter Beatrice, 31, dressed in black and crying as Ordóñez lowered the urn into the well between two oak trees on what would have been the actor and film director's 72nd birthday. The director of Citizen Kane (1941) and the Lady from Shanghai (1947) died in October 1985 at his home in California. He had requested that his ashes be buried on Ordóñez's farm. Ordóñez threw sand from the Ronda bullring over the well, a gesture he said was "a symbol of the love Welles felt for the bullfighting world" and their friendship.

Climbers claim evidence of 'Yeti'

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, England (AP) — Mountaineer Chris Bonington has said his climbing team recently discovered a creature's footprints in snow on an unscalable Himalayan peak, again raising questions about the existence of a "Yeti" or abominable snowman. Bonington, 52, said his five-man team, including three Norwegians, photographed the footprints at about 16,000 feet (5,000 metres) up the 23,237-foot (7,082-metre) Menglungtse. The photographs have not yet been developed, he said.

Thieves nabbed by police trap

DHAKA (R) — Four knife-wielding robbers ended up in custody when they picked the wrong target — the police. They fell into a trap organised by detectives disguised as rich-looking bus passengers in Dhaka's teeming Gulistan area, police said. As the young men tried to snatch their handbags and suitcases, the policemen pulled out revolvers and herded the criminals to prison.

Tainted workers get 'abuse allowance'

SYDNEY (R) — Workers building a pedestrian mall in central Sydney have been awarded an extra 45 dollars (\$32) a week as an "abuse allowance" because of taunts by angry citizens. The Federal Arbitration Commission made the award after the workers claimed they had been the target of verbal and physical abuse from shoppers inconvenienced by the construction work. "Everybody yells at us. We are in a no-win situation," said one of the workers who belong to the powerful Builders Workers Industrial Union.

Bacon portrait sold for \$1.76m

NEW YORK (R) — A portrait by Francis Bacon sold at auction for \$1.76 million, the highest price ever for a contemporary British artist, Christie's said. The painting, *Study for Portrait II*, which began as a study of Bacon's friend, art critic David Sylvester, was bought by Swiss art dealer Jan Krugier, who also bought a second Bacon painting for \$1.43 million, auction house official Robin Riley said. The Bacon portrait had belonged to Belgium's Lambert Collection. Krugier, who lives in Geneva, said in a telephone interview: "I'm very happy. These are extremely rare pieces. It has always been my dream to have one." He added: "I believe that Bacon is the greatest living artist ... these are masterpieces." Another record was set when Andy Warhol's *White Car Crash X 19* fetched \$650,000. The silk-screen, a work from the late artist's seminal pop period, brought in the highest price ever paid at auction for a Warhol, Riley said.

Teen computer 'hackers' caught

BEAVER DAM, Wisconsin (R) — Six teenagers used computers to steal long-distance telephone codes and make \$40,000 worth of illegal calls, including a conference hookup which lasted for 12 hours, police have said. The youths, aged 13 to 17, have not been charged but will be turned over to juvenile authorities, the county sheriff's office said. The ring used personal computers to break into electronic records which contained credit card numbers and other telephone codes, police said. Over the course of 10 months they made 2,000 calls costing about \$40,000 which did not show up on their parents' bills. One conference call to locations in New York and Maryland involved 22 people and lasted for 12 hours, officials said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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Hold declarer to a guess

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

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♦ Q J 8 2

♦ K Q 5

♦ A K Q

WEST

♦ K 2

♦ A 9 6 4

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SOUTH

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The bidding: North 1